

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1357

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR RO PO

SUBJECT: SOARES ROMANIAN VISIT

1. VISIT OF PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER MARIO SOARES (JANUARY 3-6) TO ROMANIA SEEN HERE ESSENTIALLY AS PORTUGUESE GESTURE OF APPRECIATION TOWARD GOR AS FIRST SOCIALIST STATE TO RE-ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL FOLLOWING APRIL CHANGE OF REGIME. A SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ACCORD, TOGETHER WITH A RECIPROCAL VISA AGREEMENT, WERE SIGNED AND IT WAS AGREED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD SOON BEGIN ON A NEW COMMERCIAL ACCORD, AS WELL AS ON A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT IN THE FIELDM OF ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. SOARES MET WITH CEAUSESCU AND AN INVITATION TO FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU TO VISIT LISBON WAS ACCEPTED, BUT NO DATE SET.

2. IN A LUMEA (ROMANIAN NEWS WEEKLY) INTERVIEW SOARES DOWNGRADED HIS SOVIET VISIT TO A "TECHNICAL STOPOVER" (ESCALA TECHNICA), DEFINED PORTUGUESE FOREIGN POLICY AS AN "OPENING IN ALL DIRECTIONS", AND CONTINUED SOMEWHAT CURIOUS PRACTICE FOR AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS IN ROMANIA NOT ONLY AS A GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE, BUT ALSO IN HIS CAPACITY AS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY. MUCH WAS ALSO MADE OF THE GOOD RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN THE RCP AND THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS, AS EVIDENCED BY HIGH-RANKING DELEGATIONS SENT TO THE RESPECTIVE CONGRESSES. IN SAME INTERVIEW SOARES ALSO SPECIFICALLY REMARKED THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS FAITHFUL TO "CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS" SUCH AS BELONGING TO NATO AND HAVING AN ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES. COMMUNIQUE SEEMS ROUTINE AND, IN FACT, ITS DRAFTING WAS "EASIEST TASK OF PAST YEAR" FOR GOR DIPLOMATS, ACCORDING TO A ROMANIAN JOURNALIST.

3. COMMENT: GOR WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO COURT PRESENT PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT, WHICH REPRESENTS MOST OBVIOUS SUCCESS TO DATE OF THE COALITION OF "PROGRESSIVE FORCES" WHICH ROMANIANS HAVE BEEN TRUMPETING AT BOTH A WORLD AND EUROPEAN LEVEL, LONG BEFORE RECENT WARSAW AND BUDAPEST MEETINGS OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES BEGAN TO ADOPT THEME. THIS MAY BE ONE EXPLANATION FOR CUAHAREST'S LAVISH ATTENTION TO PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS, AS WELL AS FOR EMPHASIS SOARES PLACED ON HIS OWN PARTY AFFILIATION. HOWEVER, ASIDE FROM FULSOME PRAISE, AND BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS, IT IS NOT YET CLEAR JUST WHAT SUBSTANTIVE BENEFITS THE PORTUGUESE CAN EXPECT FROM THEIR ROMANIAN ADMIRERS.

BARNES

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